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U.S. EMBASSY CELEBRATES THE 234th ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

On Sunday, July 4th, the U.S. Embassy hosted a formal reception to mark the 234th anniversary of U.S. Independence. The event was held at the new U.S. embassy site, which is being constructed in the Diplomatic Enclave at Jalan Kebangsaan.

The guest of honor, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman (Minister of Development) along with senior Government of Brunei officials, heads of diplomatic missions, and select business leader were present. All guests were welcomed by Chargé d' Affaires, a.i. John W. McIntyre and members of the U.S. Embassy staff.

The ceremony continues a tradition, started last year, of hosting a formal ceremony on the site of the New U.S. Embassy. In addition, the Embassy along with Brunei's own S&A pictures produced a video especially for the occasion. The video, "*Faces of America*", captures the rich diversity of the American diplomatic staff as well as celebrating the pride of being an American. The strong bond between Brunei Darussalam and the United States is symbolized in the ongoing and nearly completed construction of a new U.S Embassy. The Guest of Honor was presented with a commemorative stone which will be placed within the Embassy grounds to mark the occasion.

The formal ceremony was followed later in the day with an informal Family Fun Day event held at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence. This event mirrors 4th of July celebrations held throughout the United States with an emphasis on family, friends, and fun.